

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 18 August to 18 September 1952

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DATE PREPARED 14 October 1952

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 17 September 1952, [redacted] a train of 50 boxcars loaded with billeting equipment and two boxcars loaded with personnel in addition to some flatcars loaded with trucks [redacted] passing through the Hammelspring railroad station at the Templin (N 54/U 81) troop training grounds and proceeding toward Templin. At 8:05 a.m. on 18 September, a train of 50 boxcars loaded with personnel and billeting equipment and of an undetermined number of flatcars loaded with two guns [redacted] was passing through the railroad station toward Templin. (1) [redacted] learned from German civilians employed at Camp Hammelspring that the camp would be evacuated four weeks earlier than in the preceding years. It was rumored that this decision was due to the many cases of sickness that prevailed during this same period last year. During the period from 8 to 18 September, no exercises of large units were observed.

2. At 6 p.m. on 17 September, about 60 trucks, 3 tanks, 1 gun and personnel were entrained at the Templin railroad station. On the same day, a convoy of 12 trucks loaded with [redacted] which came from the direction of Camp Hammelspring passed through Templin. (3) About 9:30 a.m. on 18 September, 25 boxcars were loaded with personnel and an undetermined number of flatcars with trucks and guns at the Templin railroad station. (1) On 1 September, [redacted] a train of 7 boxcars loaded with personnel and an undetermined number of flatcars loaded with T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 1 field kitchen and 2 trucks [redacted] passing through the Templin railroad station. (4)

3. During the period from 8 through 18 September, [redacted] the following observations at the Vogelsang and Hammelspring camps:

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Unit Khlopov, which was previously stationed at the Olympisches Dorf, moved to a cantonment west of the Vogelsang railroad station. When this unit fell in, [redacted] about 500 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and 6 x 120-mm mortars drawn by personnel. Documents seen on Colonel Khlopov's (fnu) desk [redacted] Colonel Khlopov and his adjutant were in Eberswalde from 8 to 11 September. (1) Besides Unit Khlopov, the camp quartered an artillery unit from Bernau and a high echelon headquarters in three semi-permanent buildings between Unit Khlopov and the artillery unit. The camp west of Hammelspring quartered a unit from Eberswalde whose members wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. An engineer headquarters whose commanding officer was Colonel Kirk (fnu) was located in Grossdölln east of Zehdenick. [redacted] (2)

4. Prior to the spring of 1952, Unit Knochkov was stationed in the Weisse Stadt settlement in Oranienburg (N 53/Z 77). Then the bulk of this unit moved to Speck, 15 km southeast of Waren (N 54/U 35). In late August, the rear detail of this unit also evacuated the quarters in Oranienburg, allegedly in order to move to Speck. (5)
5. At 4 p.m. on 3 September, about three companies were seen practicing an attack against three tank-like dummies between Zahren (N 54/J 55) and Regowtschleuse. An engineer flame thrower detail which attacked the targets with its flame throwers and other close combat weapons was attached to each company. [redacted] from a bargeman that engineer training was daily conducted on Fauler See (lake) and near Kannenburg between 9 and 13 September. The construction of a bridge of ferries and the ferrying of vehicles were practiced.
6. On the morning of 18 August, 24 JS-3 tanks which were firing in a northerly direction were seen on the Gollin-Vietmannsdorf road east of Vogelsang. On 25 August, tank units were observed crossing Polsensee (lake) near Dargersdorf (N 54/U 91). The T-34/85 and JS-3 tanks used three ferrying sites which were protected by a smoke screen. After crossing the lake, the tanks took up firing positions on the northern bank of the lake. After the smoke screen had lifted, some tanks which had remained on the southern bank of the lake left toward the south. [redacted] the tanks belonged to units quartered on Grossvatersee (lake). One of the JS-3 tanks [redacted] was observed at Grossvater.
7. On 5 September, a general and 40 officers arrived at the Templin railroad station. [redacted] 25X1
8. During the period from 18 to 28 August, [redacted] construction work on the Altenhof Jungpionierlager (camp for young pioneers) on Werbellinsee (lake) was discontinued. Most of the workers previously employed there had been detached to work in Gollin. Only a few young pioneers were seen at the camp. 25X1
9. On 18 September, [redacted] construction staff assigned to the Zentrales Jugendpionierlager Werbellinsee project that 5 construction supervisors and 400 men were working on this project. Six three-story buildings had been completed while a number of other quartering buildings was under construction. [redacted] the term of Jugendpionier Lager was a code designation, as the installation was designed to be a Volkspolizei barracks installation. (6) 25X1

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Field Comments.

- (1) It is believed that the rail movements reported in paragraphs 1 and 2 are connected with the movement of units of the 11th Gds AT Arty Brig (?) to Bernau. On 17 September, [redacted] the arrival in Bernau of elements of this brigade. [redacted] Colonel Khlopov (fnu) who was known previously, probably is the supply officer of the brigade. According to available information, this officer was in Bernau on 10 September inspecting the new quarters of the brigade. [redacted] probably belongs to the brigade headquarters which thus may be considered as being confirmed until 12 September 1952.
- (2) This information confirms the previously known occupation of the Templin troop training grounds until mid-September. [redacted] The information by source of the premature evacuation of the troop training grounds is believed to be improbable. Colonel Kirk (fnu) who was previously reported by the same source is said to be the chief of the construction staff which is responsible for the construction of the airfield in the Templin area.
- (3) This entraining possibly involved units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div, to which also the truck convoy loaded with billeting equipment belonged. The units are probably the first elements of the division, which, according to information furnished by another source was to assemble in Bernau after 17 September for the peace parade which was to be held in Berlin on 7 October.
- (4) [redacted] This train carried the tank unit of the 6th Gds Mecz Div which, [redacted] was detained in Eberswalde during the night from 2 to 3 September. [redacted]
- (5) Lieutenant Colonel Knochkov (fnu) whose name was previously known is the commanding officer or supply officer of an AT regiment of the 2d Light Army Brig (US) which held its summer maneuvers in the Speck-Granzin area northeast of Neustrelitz and which moved from Oranienburg to the Olympisches Dorf in Doeberitz in September 1952. [redacted]
- (6) [redacted] furnished the information contained in paragraphs 5 to 8 reported in late April 1952 that 16 buildings were completed and 12 others nearing completion at the Altenhof Jungpionier Lager. [redacted] It is well possible that the progress of this work was interrupted by a more urgent construction work in the Templin area.

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